

LABRACINUS THE PROPER NAME FOR THE FISH GENUS CICHOLOPS.

By THEODORE GILL,

Honorary Associate in Zoology.

In 1849 Müller and Troschel, in the *Horæ Ichthyologicæ* (III, p. 24), gave the name *Cichlops* to a well-known genus of the family called by them *Pseudochromides* or, as now named, *Pseudochromidæ*. The name has been universally retained for the genus ever since, and last by Jordan and Snyder (1902) in a Review of the Trachinoid fishes and their supposed Allies found in the Waters of Japan.^a The identical name *Cichlops*, however, had been used several years previously (in 1844) for a genus of birds by Hodgson and published in Gray's *Zoological Miscellany* (p. 83). The avian genus is now regarded as a synonym of *Anthus*, but the early use of the name precludes its retention for the fish genus. For that genus *Labracinus* may be used; it was apparently originally given by H. Schlegel, without description or reference to a type, and simply to specimens in the Leyden Museum. At least this is the legitimate inference from the only known notice of the name, which occurs in the memoir of Bleeker. Bleeker, at the head of the genus *Cichlops*, has the reference "*Cichlops* M. Tr. = *Labracinus* Schl. (Mus. L. B.)."^b

As the facts thus indicated have not been noticed in late works, a new name might be given and the synonymy thus unnecessarily added to; to avoid this the present note is given.

^aProc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XXIV, 1902, p. 491.

^bThe first publication of the name *Labracinus* appears to have been made in Van der Hoeven's "*Handboek der Dierkunde*." After a diagnosis of "*Glaucosoma* Schl." a note is appended, viz: "ANNOT. Hic etiam collocandum videtur genus novum e mare indico prope Celebes, *Labracinus* Mus. L. B., cujus descriptionem a Doctissimo Schlegel exspectandum puto." This is translated in the English edition (II, p. 177): "NOTE.—Here also would seem to be the place for a new genus from the Indian Sea near Celebes, *Labracinus* Mus. L. B., of which I think the description may be expected from Doctor Schlegel." The expectation was never realized, and no one could have imagined what genus was intended, as *Labracinus* has no resemblance or affinity to *Glaucosoma*.